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NEWSLETTER

101-1282

25 October 1990

Washington, DC

FREE VIDEOTAPES TO AND FROM THE TROOPS. The USO, the Defense Logistics Agency and a nationwide department store chain are working together to assist families and personnel involved in **Operation Desert Shield** to have free two-way video communications. With the support of several of its key suppliers the company has created a project called Better Than A Letter. Nearly \$2 million worth of television sets, VCRs, and camcorders and 250,000 blank videotapes have been sent to the Persian Gulf, allowing our military women and men to make and send video messages to loved ones and friends back home. The company also has made available private areas in each of its stores for viewing videotapes from Operation Desert Shield. In addition, the company is providing the opportunity for service families to come into any of its stores and tape a video message free of charge. The firm did this in the thought that many people do not have VCRs at home and so would have no way of viewing a tape sent to them by someone in the Persian Gulf area. Even fewer people have camcorders in order to make a videotape. In the Rio Grande Valley area the chain has stores in Pharr, Brownsville, Laredo and Corpus Christi. Being able to see a loved one is indeed Better Than A Letter. As you know, communication with home is crucial to maintaining the morale of troops stationed in dangerous and remote posts. To my mind, this project is a great example of what a service organization such as the USO, the government and the business community can accomplish when working together toward a common goal and in a most worthy cause. For more information you may call my offices in Washington (202-225-2531) McAllen (512-682-5545) or Alice (512-664-2215).

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WHAT IS PAST IS PROLOGUE. That's an inscription on the base of a statue at the entrance to the National Archives in Washington and it has become identified with the institution itself. It means that the past is only the beginning. The National Archives is one of Washington's most beautiful buildings and it is the place where you can view the original Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. They are sealed in individual bronze and glass cases in which air has been replaced with helium. Light filters prevent fading and when the viewing room closes the documents are lowered into a vault below the floor. Although the National Archives structure was not completed until 1935, concern for our treasured papers dated much earlier than that. Thomas Jefferson said, "Time and accident are committing daily havoc on the originals deposited in our public buildings." Early in this century there were a number of fires in Washington government buildings and plans were made for a fireproof, windowless and temperature controlled structure. Today the Archives houses documents that disclose the whole sweep of our history.

There's the Louisiana Purchase Treaty signed in bold strokes, "Bonaparte." (Napoleon) There are 3 billion pages of textual material,

5 million still pictures, 91 million feet of film and 70,000 sound recordings (including Tokyo Rose's broadcasts during World War II). The National Archives serves as the Nation's memory for a multitude of purposes. For example, it can provide military service and pension records and ship passenger lists recording the arrival of immigrants. It can help historians interpreting the past, students preparing term papers, Indian tribes pressing claims and persons tracing their ancestry.

Next year the Archives will begin a series of exhibitions commemorating the U.S.'s participation in World War II. The exhibition will begin in December, 1991---the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor---and continue for several years tracing the course of the war. Your Congressman is serving on the Honorary Advisory Committee for these activities. The exhibitions will be in Washington and at the eight Presidential libraries around the country, including the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin. In connection with this the LBJ Library is seeking material on many campaigns and events. Among them are the following: **Bataan/Corregidor, Coral Sea/Midway; Normandy; Battle of the Bulge; Iwo Jima; V-E Day and V-J Day.** For more information you may write to the Office of the Curator, The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, 2313 Red River Street, Austin, Texas, 78705.

The National Archives is hoping to send some of its World War II exhibits on tour around the country, but this depends on donations from foundations and large companies. If one is headed our way I will be sure and let you know.

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MORE SUPER COLLIDER JOBS. The Texas Research Laboratory Commission informs me that it continues to need people to work on the Superconducting Super Collider. It is in Waxahachie, near Dallas. The job bulletin the Commission sent to me lists more than 100 job openings. A majority of the jobs are scientific and call for a high level of education. In addition to physicists, the SSC also needs computer specialists and programmers, engineers of various kinds, electronic technicians, draftsmen, subcontract administrators, secretaries, an accounting clerk and a courier. The latter job sounds like an interesting one. He or she would drive SSC personnel around on official business, pick up and deliver media reporters, help out the mail room and sometimes pull overtime on short notice. A good driving record is required, of course, and an expert knowledge of the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The bulletin adds that the individual also must "present an impeccable appearance and manner due to both internal and external high level and VIP contact." Anyone interested in any of these positions should send a resume to this address:

Superconducting Super Collider
2550 Beckleymeade Avenue, Suite 125
MS-2050/JB
Dallas, Texas 75237

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